



Committee report

Committee	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date	9 JULY 2019
Title	REVIEW OF COLLABORATION WITH TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS
Report of	COUNCILLOR DEBBIE ANDRE – LEAD MEMBER

SUMMARY

1. To consider the responses received in relation to the Committee's task and finish group reviewing collaboration with town and parish councils.

BACKGROUND

2. The Committee, at its meeting on 11 September 2018 agreed to established a small task and finish group to review arrangements for closer collaboration with town and parish councils specifically in relation to the delivery of services that meet local needs including :-
 - The process of consultation and provision of information;
 - Co-ordination of services delivered by the Isle of Wight Council and Parish and Town Councils;
 - Partnership arrangements between town and parish councils for delivering services on an area basis.
3. This was to ascertain if there were effective and efficient methods of communication were in place and make recommendations on areas where improvements could be made.
4. The responses received are attached as Appendix 1.
5. Whilst it is slightly disappointing that only seven responses were submitted there was a good cross section.

OVERVIEW OF RESPONSES

6. It is pleasing to note that town and parish councils feel that there is a very good working relationship with the council across most services. The single point of contact is very welcome.
7. The existing arrangements for the attendance and involvement of council members in town and parish councils works well. There does not seem any need to consider any changes to the approach being taken. The capacity for joint provision of information is also something that could be looked at.
8. One area that requires more investigation relates to the involvement of town and parish councils in the section 106 process. The responses indicate that town and parish councils should be involved at an early stage to ensure that the greatest community benefit is achieved. Additionally there is a view that town and parish councils would like to have greater involvement on planning issues in their area. There was a conflicting response to the best approach to having a more effective contact between the councils and planning officers.
9. The engagement with the Isle of Wight Community Safety Partnership appears to differ across the Island and is something that needs to be followed up. The same can also be said about local engagement with Patient Participation Groups.
10. With regard to identifying new funding streams/grants there is a view that it would be helpful to have access to a specialist officer. Those town and parish councils that do make successful funding applications should be encouraged to tell other councils so to highlight good practice. This could assist in the development of more joint working.
11. Although many town and parish councils provide a range of services these do not utilise any performance measure to demonstrate effectiveness of delivery.
12. The benefits of being members of the IW Association of Local Councils is demonstrated together with the value of a representative being on the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) The views of town and parish councils on the good working relationships with council services be welcome.
- (ii) The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing be recommended to investigate enhancing the role of town and parish councils in planning, and in particular section 106 agreements, and report back to the committee on any proposed actions.
- (iii) The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection be requested to review the arrangements for engagement by the IW Community Safety Partnership with town and parish councils and report back on this at the November 2019 meeting.

- (iv) The Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care be requested to discuss the involvement of town and parish councils in Patient Participation Groups with Healthwatch and the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- (v) The Cabinet Member for Resources be requested to look at possible ways to identify the types of performance measures that could be introduced by town and parish councils in the delivery of services and what support could be provided by the council to assist in this.
- (vi) The Leader be requested to consider amendments to the current consultation protocol between the IW Council and town and parish councils in the light of this review and any relevant issues identified during the Cabinet meetings with local council representatives.

APPENDICES

13. [Appendix A - Responses from Town and Parish Councils](#)

Contact Point: Paul Thistlewood, Scrutiny Officer ☎ 821000 ext 6321
e-mail paul.thistlewood@iow.gov.uk

COUNCILLOR DEBBIE ANDRE
Lead member for the Review